IN THE CLAIMS

No amendments, cancellations, or additions are made to the claims, which are reproduced here for the Examiner's convenience.

1.   (Previously Presented) A method to be performed by a data processing system to improve fault tolerance comprising:

providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution is requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among a plurality of workflow engines;

only if a workflow is successfully completed by a first workflow engine for an execution-requesting client, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client, else assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, in response to which the second workflow engine alone completes the workflow.

2.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.

3.   (Original) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

4.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the explicit and delayed acknowledgement is performed by a certified messaging capability.

5.   (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.

6.   (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

7.   (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver forming part of the workflow.

8.   (Original) The method recited in claim 4 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method to be performed by a computer network comprising a plurality of clients and a plurality of workflow engines:

providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution can be requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among the plurality of workflow engines; and

determining whether a workflow has been successfully completed by a first workflow engine on behalf of an execution-requesting client; and

only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

10.   (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.

11.   (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

12.   (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

13.   (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.

14.   (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

15.   (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the workflow.

16.   (Original) The method recited in claim 12 and further comprising:

        the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.

17.   (Previously Presented) A computer adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, the computer executing a computer program, the computer program operating the computer in a fault-tolerant manner and comprising the operations of:

        requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

        a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

        determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

        only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

        otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

18.   (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

19.   (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

20.   (Original) The computer recited in claim 19, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

21.   (Original) The computer recited in claim 19 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer network comprising:

a plurality of clients;

a plurality of workflow engines; and

at least one computer program, the computer program operating in a fault-tolerant manner and performing the operations of:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

23.   (Previously Presented) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

24.   (Original) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

25.   (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

26.   (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

27.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions for instructing a processor, the processor adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions comprise:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

28.   (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

29.   (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

30.   (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

31.   (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

32.   (Previously Presented) An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having instructions for instructing a processor forming part of a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions, when accessed, result in a machine performing:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

33.   (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

34.   (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

35.   (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

36.   (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.